

<b>City of San Diego, California</b> <b>METROPOLITAN WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT</b>  <b>WASTEWATER COLLECTION DIVISION</b> <b>OPERATIONS AND POLICY MANUAL</b>	<b>Document No. C.12</b>  <b>Effective Date:</b> <b>January 30, 2003</b>
<b>SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE OF STREET/ALLEY</b> <b>SEWER LATERALS</b>	<b>Supersedes: Systems Division</b> <b>O&amp;P Items D.08 of 6/01/91</b>

## 1. PURPOSE

1.1 \_ To define areas of responsibility requiring action from the City.

## 2. AUTHORITY

2.1 City Council Policy 400-10

2.2 Director, Metropolitan Wastewater Department

2.3 Deputy Director, Wastewater Collection Division

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 ***Maintenance*** is “the upkeep of the sewer lateral to prevent stoppages and the removal of obstructions when they occur”.

3.2 ***Sewer Lateral*** is “the pipe that connects the property’s sewer lines to the City sewer main”.

## 4. RESPONSIBILITY

4.1 Property owner/agent shall be responsible for:

- a. both the routine maintenance and the required cleaning of the sewer line, from the building to the City sewer main.
  - when failure or stoppage of a sewer lateral occurs, City crews will not respond until the property owner/agent has established, through the use of a licensed plumber or certified drain cleaning service, that the stoppage or failure is between the property line and the sewer main, and that it is beyond the scope of the property owner/agent to relieve or repair. The licensed plumber or licensed drain cleaning service is to contact the City of San Diego Water and Sewer 24-Hour Emergency Service.

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4.2 City of San Diego:

- a. shall respond to calls and make repairs when the licensed plumber or licensed drain cleaner has established that the sewer lateral is blocked or has collapsed beyond the property line in a public right-of-way.
- 4.3 If City crews respond to a call to make repairs, and it is determined that the property owner/agent could have effectively maintained or repaired the lateral and failed to do so, the property owner/agent will be billed for the full cost of City services including labor, material, equipment, and overhead.

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Christopher J. Toth  
Deputy Director, WWC Division

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Date